

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended): A container for volatile substances, such as insecticides and aromatics which are evaporated by an evaporation device, the evaporation device having a container body for containing the volatile substance, a container neck extending from the container body terminating in a container opening in which a wick may be inserted, a wick retaining insert inserted into the container opening of the container neck for holding the wick in the container, said wick retaining insert having an outside insert wall at least partially in contact connection with an inside container neck wall when inserted, and a wick fixing device which secures the wick against being pulled out of the container when inserted, wherein said container comprises:

a wick retaining insert;

a wick opening formed in an upper portion of said wick retaining insert;

a container opening formed in said container neck;

a contact connection for fixing said wick retaining insert in the container opening;

and

a clamping connection for clamping a wick within said wick retaining insert when said wick retaining insert is fixed in said container opening by said contact connection so that said clamping connection of said wick retaining insert secures the wick against being pulled out; and

said container neck includes at least two diameter zones having different diameters, and said wick retaining insert includes a deformable clamping zone between said container neck and said wick retaining insert at one of said diameter zones; and said wick retaining insert being radially and inwardly deformable at said clamping zone when inserted in said container neck to clamp the wick against an inner wall area of the wick retaining insert.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended): The device of claim 2 1 wherein said two different diameter zones are formed on an inside container neck wall so that a first diameter zone closest to the container opening has a greater diameter than a second diameter zone closest to the container body so that said wick retaining insert engages said diameter zones on the inside container neck wall in such manner that said wick retaining insert is deformed in said radial direction to clamp the wick during insertion when going from said first diameter zone to said second diameter zone.

4. (original): The device of claim 3 wherein said first and second diameter zones are formed by a radially circumferential gradation in an area of the inside container neck so that said first diameter zone is formed as an upper diameter zone and said second diameter zone is formed as a lower diameter zone.

5. (original): The device of claim 4 including an insertion bevel formed on said wick retaining insert in the direction of said second, lower diameter zone in the area of said gradation.

6. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein said wick retaining insert has a circumferential insert shoulder at one end which engages an edge of said container opening when the wick retaining insert is inserted.

7. (original): The device of claim 1 including at least one snap-in element provided on an outside wall of said wick retaining insert, said snap-in element interacting with a complimentary element formed on an inside wall of said container neck to provide a snap-in connection between said insert and container neck that can be unsnapped.

8. (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said clamping connection includes a clamping zone on the wick retaining insert formed by at least two clamping fingers extending in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the insert and a gap being defined between said clamping fingers allowing said fingers to deform and clamp said wick.

9. (original): The device of claim 8 wherein said clamping fingers and said wick retaining insert clamping zone are elastically deformable.

10. (original): The device of claim 9 including at least one clamping step formed on said clamping fingers on an inside wall of said insert having an edge which is pushed into the wick when the wick is clamped.

11. (original): The device of claim 10 wherein said clamping steps of adjoining clamping fingers are offset relative to each other in the longitudinal direction of the wick retaining insert whereby every other clamping step is preferably located at the same level when three clamping fingers are used.

12. (original): The device of claim 1 wherein a clamping step is formed on an inside wall of said wick retaining insert near the clamping zone which can be pressed into the wick for clamping the wick when the insert is deformed.

13. (original): The device of claim 1 including a circumferential insertion bevel provided in said insert wick opening for easy insertion of the wick.

14. (original): The device of claim 13 including an insertion bevel formed on an entry end of said wick retaining insert to aid in inserting the retaining insert into said container opening of the container neck.

15. (original): The device of claim 14 that the wick retaining insert and said container opening have an approximately circular cross-section in the container neck. 16. (original): The device of claim 1 including threads formed on one outside wall of said container neck and a locking cover screwed on the container neck to form a complete individual assembly.

17. (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the container neck includes threads on an outside area so that said container may be screwed into a housing of an evaporation device with the wick end extending into a wick opening of a heating block of the heating device when assembled.

18. (original): The device of claim 1 wherein the resistance force of the wick retaining insert against being pulled out from the container neck is greater than the resistance force of the wick against being pulled out of wick retaining insert.

19. (currently amended): A container for volatile substances, such as insecticides and aromatics which are evaporated by an evaporation device comprising:

a container body for containing the volatile substance;

a container neck extending from the container body terminating in a container opening;

a unitary wick retaining insert for insertion into said container opening having a wick passage formed by an inside wall of said wick retaining insert for receiving the wick;

said wick retaining insert having an outside wall at least partially in contact with an inside wall of said container neck when placed in said neck;

a contact connection between said container neck and wick retaining insert for fixing said insert in the container neck; ~~and~~

a wick clamping connection between said inside wall of said retaining insert and the wick for clamping the wick in said wick retaining insert when said insert and wick are placed in said container neck; and

said wick clamping connection includes a plurality of resilient clamping fingers forming at least part of said wick passage, and at least one abutment carried in said container neck engaging said clamping fingers to bend said clamping fingers inwardly to clamp against the wick when said wick retaining insert is placed in said container neck.

20. (currently amended): The device of claim 19 wherein said container neck includes ~~varying~~ diameter zones having different diameters, and said inside wall of said wick retaining insert is deformable to provide a wick clamping zone so that inside wall of said retaining insert is deformed to clamp the wick against said inside wall of said insert wick passage at one of said diameter zones as the insertion distance of the wick retaining insert increases through said diameter zones.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~24~~ 19 including clamping steps formed on said clamping fingers which are offset in the longitudinal direction of said wick passage.

23. (new): A container for volatile substances, such as insecticides and aromatics which are evaporated by an evaporation device comprising:

a container body for containing the volatile substance;

a container neck extending from the container body terminating in a container opening;

a unitary wick retaining insert for insertion into said container opening having a wick passage formed by an inside wall of said wick retaining insert for receiving the wick;

said wick retaining insert having an outside wall at least partially in contact with an inside wall of said container neck when placed in said neck;

a contact connection between said container neck and wick retaining insert for fixing said insert in the container neck;

a wick clamping connection between said inside wall of said retaining insert and the wick for clamping the wick in said wick retaining insert when said insert and wick are placed in said container neck; and

said container neck includes diameter zones having different diameters, and said inside wall of said wick retaining insert is deformable to provide a wick clamping zone so that inside wall of said retaining insert is deformed to clamp the wick against said inside wall of said insert wick passage at one of said diameter zones as the

insertion distance of the wick retaining insert increases through said diameter zones.